U.S. Application No. - Unassigned (National Phase of PCT/AU03/01424, filed 10/29/2003)
Docket No. 5653
Amendment dated April 29, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1-19. (canceled)

- 20. (new) Apparatus for cleaning fluids, said apparatus comprising an inlet for fluid to be cleaned, a heating unit for heating said fluid, a centrifugal cleaner, a vacuum dehydration unit, a holding tank, a fluid outlet, and means for conveying fluid from said inlet selectively through said heating unit, said centrifugal cleaner, and/or said vacuum dehydration unit and to said outlet or said holding tank.
- 21. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 20 wherein said means for conveying fluid comprises a first pump and first connecting means for selectively connecting said first pump to said inlet or said holding tank.
- 22. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 21 wherein said connecting means includes selectively actuable valve means.
- 23. (new) Apparatus as claimed in a claim 20 and including means connecting said heating unit to said first pump and to said centrifugal cleaner whereby fluid pumped by said pump passes through said heating unit to said centrifugal cleaner.
- 24. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 20 wherein said centrifugal cleaner comprises a base, a rotor mounted on a substantially vertical axis for rotation thereabout, at least one rotor nozzle in a lower portion of the rotor, and a housing mounted on the base and enclosing the rotor.
- 25. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 wherein said centrifugal cleaner includes an impeller positioned below the rotor adjacent the base to exert pressure on the fluid in said cleaner.

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- 26. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 25 wherein said impeller comprise a central hub mounted for rotation on the central axis around which said rotor is rotatable, said hub having at least one blade extending therefrom.
- 27. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 wherein said impeller is attached to said rotor for rotation therewith.
- 28. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 wherein said impeller is independent of said rotor.
- 29. (new) Apparatus as claimed claims 20 wherein said centrifugal cleaner comprises a base, a rotor having an interior and an exterior mounted on a substantially vertical axis for revolution thereabout, at least one rotor nozzle in a lower portion of the rotor, the rotor having side walls arranged to retain solid contaminants contained in the fluid which are forced outwardly by rapid rotation of the rotor due to reaction to ejection of the fluid to a drain sump through the rotor nozzles, a housing mounted on the base and enclosing the rotor, a drain sump formed in the base below the rotor, a fluid inlet passage arranged to supply fluid at an elevated pressure to the interior of the rotor by way of the rotation axis, at least one fluid drain passage in the base to receive fluid from the drain sump and an impeller positioned below the rotor adjacent the base to exert pressure on the fluid.
- 30. (new) Apparatus as claims in claim 20 wherein said vacuum dehydration unit comprises a vacuum chamber having a base, an inlet in an upper portion of the vacuum chamber for fluid entry, and means for generating a vacuum in said vacuum chamber.
- 31. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 30 and including a fluid discharge passage in a lower portion of the vacuum chamber and extending a distance above the base of the chamber to maintain a depth of fluid in said vacuum chamber.

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- 32. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 20 wherein said vacuum dehydration unit includes a vacuum chamber and wherein fluid from said centrifugal cleaner is supplied directly to said chamber.
- 33. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 30 wherein said centrifugal cleaner includes an outlet, said outlet extending into said vacuum chamber.
- 34. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 30 wherein said vacuum chamber includes at least one tray or other means to increase the surface area of oil exposed to the vacuum.
- 35. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 21 wherein said means for conveying fluid includes a second pump and second connecting means for selectively connecting said second pump to said holding tank or said outlet.
- 36. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35 wherein said second connecting means includes selectively actuable valve means
- 37. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 20 and including a mobile chassis and wherein said heating unit, centrifugal cleaner, vacuum dehydration unit, and holding tank are supported on said chassis.
- 38. (new) Apparatus for cleaning oil, said apparatus comprising a heating unit for heating oil, a centrifugal cleaner connected to said heating unit for receiving heated oil from said heating unit, a vacuum dehydration unit connected to said centrifugal cleaner for receiving oil from said dehydration unit, an oil holding tank, an inlet for oil to be cleaned, a first control valve selectivley actuable to connect said inlet to said heating unit or to said holding tank whereby oil to be cleaned can be supplied from said inlet to said heating unit or from said holding unit to said heating unit, an outlet for cleaned oil, a second control valve selectively actuable to connect said dehydration unit to said outlet or said dehydration unit to said holding tank, and

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one or more pumps for conveying oil from said inlet or holding tank through said heating unit, said centrifugal cleaner and said dehydration unit to said outlet or back to said holding tank.

39. (new) A method for cleaning a fluid, said method including the steps of heating said fluid, centrifuging said heated fluid, dehydrating said centrifuged fluid and selectively passing said dehydrated fluid to an outlet or subjecting said dehydrated fluid to further heating, centrifuging and dehydration through said steps.